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UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY

# MAGNIFICAT

## MARGARET PLUNKETT



SIXPENCE NET



MAGNIFICAT

Trí cainle fóirnat each nórcha: rír,  
aicneó, echna.

Three candles that light up every darkness:  
Truth, Nature, Knowledge.

THE TRIADS OF IRELAND,





# MAGNIFICAT

GERALDINE PLUNKETT

ILLUSTRATED BY  
JACK MORROW

THE CANDLE PRESS  
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DUBLIN . . . . . MCMXVII

THE GARDNER PRESS  
NEW YORK  
1910



**W**HILE you are in Kilkenny town  
I see your grace in every tree,  
Your hair is as the beeches brown,  
The birches have your bravery.

Your strength in mountain oaks I find,  
Eagles in this have built their nest,  
With supple sally twigs you bind  
My willing heart unto your breast.

Cypress and cedar spreading wide,  
Under your peace my heart will sleep,  
O rowan tree that grows beside  
My pool of love, your roots drink deep!

## JUNE

**I** FILL my heart with store of memories  
Lest I should ever leave these loved shores,  
Of lime trees humming with slow drone of bees  
And honey dripping sweet from sycamores

Of how a fir tree set upon a hill  
Lifts up its seven branches to the stars,  
Of the grey summer heats when all is still  
And even grasshoppers cease their little wars.

Of how a chestnut drops its great green sleeve  
Down to the grass that nestles in the sod,  
Of how a blackbird in a bush at eve  
Sings to me suddenly the praise of God.

## THE NORTH WIND

**O** RARE North wind whose cutting edge is  
keen,  
Joyfully brushing up the country side,  
Tossing aloft the yellow buds and green!  
A little southward eddy creeps around  
When all the west is blushing like a bride,  
Sweet is the southward eddy near the ground.

The heavy tide rolls in in billows blue  
Save in the purple depths where seaweed lies,  
The seagulls out against the clouds are few,  
But O the sea is white among the rocks,  
The whippéd foam white in the North wind flies,  
High in the sky are flung the North wind's locks!

## TO SAINT FRANCIS

O FRANCIS, I have listened at your feet  
And tried to catch your quick humility,  
I caught the meaning of your counsels sweet  
And found the peace that is within your words,  
I've loved with you the fishes of the sea,  
I've been the little sister of the birds.

I am in fellowship with all the world,  
The rivers singing to me as they run,  
The flowers spoke to me as they unfurled,  
The dumb earth sobs to me in earthquake jars—  
As you were little brother to the sun  
I am the little sister of the stars.

## GAN AINM

**Y**OUR gracious joy distills my heart as dew  
Which your great love will gather to a  
whole

And bind the waters to a stream anew  
To wind among the gardens of your soul.

The unthinkable sweetness of your kiss  
Has made my soul a flame, and up it goes,  
Finding its way among the stars in bliss  
To hide itself in the eternal rose.

## MAGNIFICAT

A FOLD of Heaven's curtain swung aside  
Splitting the blackness of the winter's night,  
Blown by the breath of God it opened wide;  
I saw the holy ones in companies  
Led by Archangels armoured for the fight,  
I heard the shrill eternal symphonies;

I did not thrust my sorrow-twisted face  
Amongst the splendours of the heavenly town  
Nor walk mis-shapen with the forms of grace  
Girded for battle in celestial wars  
And yet, my God! an angel has come down  
And crowned me with the glory of the stars.

## SI QUIS AMAT

**I**N my dream of peace  
One sound breaks silence,  
The sweetness of increase  
As honey downward drips...  
Through the bars of sense  
Down to my soul's lips;

For whose joyous choice  
My heart sings of it,  
Shouts with a loud voice  
No fear or regret,  
Si quis amat novit  
Quid haec vox clamet.

## BEFORE HER JUDGE

**I**N all my life there happened things j̄ust three—  
First I was born,  
Marriage came next to one who seemed like Thee,  
I died this morn.

My man, my babes, my life, I loved too well  
To walk Thy ways.  
Must I now hate eternally in Hell,  
Unending days?

There is one plea beneath which I can hide,  
O Beauteous One!  
Your Father, Christ, forsook You, but I died  
To save my son,





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